

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2596

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016

Condition of Scheduled Castes

Singh Shri Brijbhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) are living below the poverty line and do not possess any assets;
- (b) if so, the percentage of such people out of the total population of the country;
- (c) whether the number of such people have increased and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the budgetary allocation made for the welfare of scheduled castes during each of the last two years along with the utilization of the said funds; and
- (e) whether various schemes for the welfare of the SCs have not been implemented properly, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

- (a) & (b): As per the estimates by the erstwhile Planning Commission(NITI Aayog), the percentage of Scheduled Caste population below poverty line during 2004-05 was 53.5.% and 40.6% in rural and urban areas respectively whereas during 2011-12 was 31.5% and 21.7% in rural and urban areas respectively.
- (c): The estimated number of Schedules Castes below poverty line was 8.97 crore in 2004-05 whereas it was decreased to 5.83 crore in 2011-12.
- (d): Details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred under Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan for Scheduled Castes is available in Statement 21 of Expenditure Budget Volume-I. The copy of Statement 21 is enclosed.
- (e): No specific complaint have come to the notice of the Department and the schemes are properly implemented. The various initiatives taken by the Ministry for monitoring the progress of the schemes for the development of SCs include the following :-
 - (i) Quarterly/Annual Progress Reports furnished by the State Governments/UT Administrations.
 - (ii) The Ministry sponsors evaluation studies from time to time through independent evaluation agencies, to, inter-alia, check proper utilization of funds by the implementing agencies.
 - (iii) Fresh/subsequent releases of grants to implementing agencies during a year are made only on receipt of Utilisation Certificates in respect of the previous year's grants, which have become due.
 - (iv) Bi-Annual Conference of the State Social Welfare Ministers and the Annual Conference of the State Welfare Secretaries organized by the Ministry.
 - (v) Review of Schemes/Programmes by the Officers of the Ministry during their visits to the States/UTs.